



SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES
EXHIBIT NO. 12
DATE March 9, 2009
BILL NO. HB 285

Senate Natural Resources Committee:
Gebhardt, Kelly (R) (Ch)
Barrett, Debby (R) (V Ch)
Curtiss, Aubyn (R)
Hansen, Ken (D)
Kaufmann, Christine (D)
Keane, Jim (D)
Perry, Gary (R)
Peterson, Jim (R)
Steinbeisser, Donald (R)
Tropila, Mitch (D)
Wanzenried, David (D)
Staff: Sonja Nowakowski

March 9, 2009

Re: Support of HB 285

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on HB 285. The Clark Fork Coalition strongly supports HB 285. This simple fix to the existing statute will **allow Montanans to choose cost-effective and stream-friendly gray water reuse systems in homes, cities, or businesses.**

HB 285 enables everyone the option of creatively reusing gray water for lawns, gardens, or crops. These gray water systems are used throughout the country, and are effective means of not only boosting water conservation in homes and businesses, but **also save water users money when they don't have to pay for "new" water to irrigate outdoors.** This bill will encourage residents and businesses alike to take proactive steps that improve water efficiency.

With drier, hotter summers the new "norm," now is the time to critically examine when, how, and why we're using ground and surface water. We urge you to pass this bill, as **gray water reuse is a cooperative, common-sense solution** that values and protects Montana's water.

The Clark Fork Coalition is comprised of 1,500 members dedicated to protecting and restoring the Clark Fork River watershed. Thank you for your time. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Brianna Randall
Water Policy Director

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